British Waterways London

1 Sheldon Square
Paddington Central
London W2 6TT

T. 020 7985 7200
F. 020 7985 7201
E. enquiries.london@britishwaterways.co.uk
W. **www.waterscape.com**

Other walks available in this series

- Little Venice circular walk
- Walking the East End's canals
- Islington to Limehouse walk
- Walking in the Lea Valley
- Walking in Harlow
- Walking in Broxbourne
- Walking around Hanwell

Every care has been taken to ensure the accuracy of all information given in this guide and British Waterways London does not accept responsibility for any changes that may have occurred since going to press. Walking alone in isolated areas is not recommended.

British Waterways London

WALKING IN BRENTFORD AND SYON PARK

Look out for the working features of the canal and the reminders of their past as you pass Clitheroe's Lock. A few hundred metres on you'll notice a small ramp leading down into the canal. Ramps like these were installed so that the towing horses, who were once used to pull boats along the canals, could climb out of the water if they accidentally fell in. When you reach the railway bridge, pass beneath it and follow the towpath immediately right through a covered dock towards the boats moored on the approach to Brentford Lock.

Brentford Lock to Syon Park

Wander around Brentford Lock and find out more about the local area from the outdoor interpretation panels or from the information centre in the Toll House which is open at weekends in the summer. If even that seems a little energetic why not watch the world go by from one of the café's or eateries situated around the paved piazza.

To leave the lock follow the walkway around the Holiday Inn, keeping it on your right, then turn right onto the High Street. Follow the road until you come to Brent Lea on your left.

Take this road and continue on it until you come to a turn on your left for the Thames Path. This walled walkway, signposted for Syon Park, will bring you past the Snakes and Ladders indoor adventure playground and the Wyevale Garden Centre before leading to the main house and parklands.

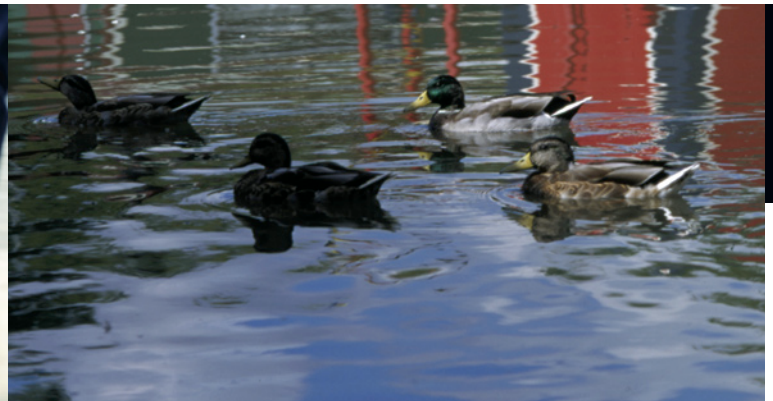
Syon House to Syon Station

The Syon Estate, originally an abbey, is owned by the Duke of Northumberland. His family built Syon House in the 1550s and commissioned Capability Brown to design the impressive grounds and gardens.

Continue to follow the Thames Path, which passes the house on the left, through the park. You will come to the gates to the estate which lead onto Park Road. Turn right into the road passing houses, allotments and then a cemetery on your left until you meet the London Road at a busy junction. Cross straight over and head up the slope to find Syon Lane Station on your left.

Thames Lock

Thames (tidal) Lock can be found about half a mile from Brentford Lock. Walkers wishing to visit it should leave this route at Brentford Lock, cross over Brentford High Street and join the towpath on the opposite side of the road (signed Thames Path) and follow the canal as it veers south towards the Thames. Please note that at certain times tides can flood the path. This route is not suitable for wheelchairs or pushchairs.



Discover the waterscape.com

WALKING IN BRENTFORD AND SYON PARK

This walk guides you along the scenic Grand Union Canal, past Brentford Lock and through the picturesque landscape of Syon Park. Taking in historical structures, rolling fields and waterside wildlife, it's an opportunity for a real breath of fresh air on west London's doorstep.

Start: Boston Manor station

Finish: Syon Lane station

Distance: 4 miles

Time: 2 hours

Transport:

Piccadilly Line to Boston Manor station. South West Trains to Clapham Junction and Waterloo from Syon Lane station

Conditions:

Mostly flat but with some uneven surfaces and restricted access, unsuitable for wheelchairs

HISTORY

The Grand Union, or Grand Junction canal as this waterway was originally called, was built between 1793 and 1805. It links London to Birmingham, providing the principal link between the capital and the rest of the UK's canal system.

Once a busy thoroughfare, the evolution of canals and rivers over the last two centuries has meant routes like these now offer visitors a refuge from the hustle and bustle of city life as well as a window onto the unforgettable sights and experiences of our historic waterways.

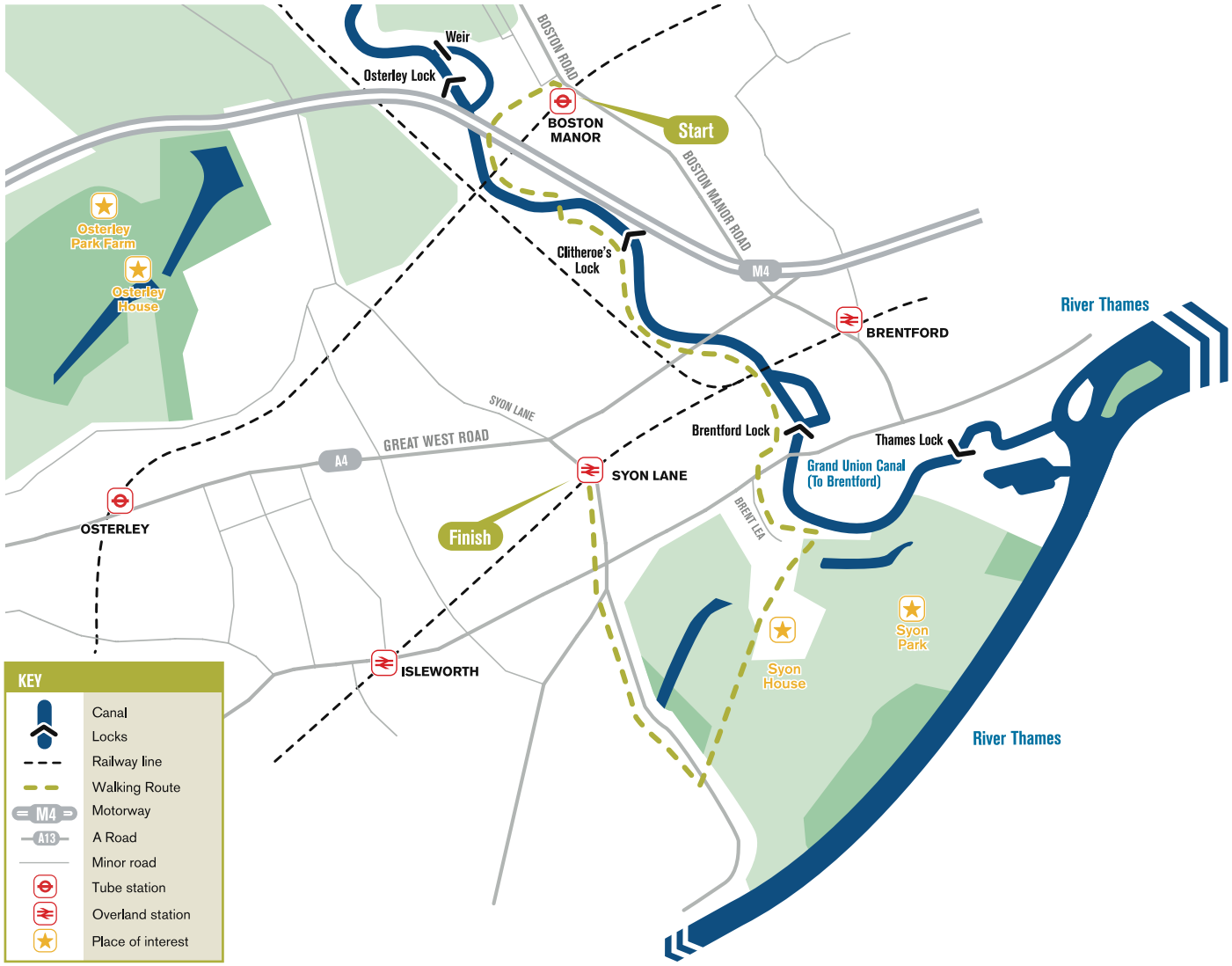
Boston Manor to the Grand Union Canal

Come out of Boston Manor tube station and turn left along Boston Road. When you reach the Harvester pub-restaurant take the road on your left signposted canal walk. Cross Southdown Avenue and continue ahead entering the park. Immediately bear left and, following the way marker, join the path next to the wooded area and sports pavilion. Continue ahead to more woodland, again, following the markers. When you reach the M4 bridge and the Grand Union Canal, turn left following the towpath under the bridge.

Along the towpath to Brentford Lock

Continue along the canal until you reach the black and white painted Gallows Bridge. This picturesque, cast iron structure, dated 1820 was probably built by Thomas Telford. Working at the turn of the seventeenth and eighteenth centuries, he was, and is still today, regarded as one of Britain's most successful and significant civil engineers.

Cross the canal using the bridge and continue along the towpath on the other side.



Crown Copyright © British Waterways 100019843